

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/008227

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-26 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 2, 8, 10, 12 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.\* 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11 \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on 11.04.2005
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets fig. 1-6 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims, nos. 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1.	Statement		
	Novelty (N)	Claims <u>2, 3, 10-12</u>	YES
		Claims <u>1, 4, 6-9</u>	NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims _____	YES
		Claims <u>1-4, 6-12</u>	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-4, 6-12</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
2.	Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)		
	Document 1: JP 2002-371136 A (Kuraray Co., Ltd.), 26 December 2002		
	Document 2: JP 04-030120 A (Fujimori Kogyo Co., Ltd.), 03 February 1992		
	Document 3: JP 2000-056694 A (Kureha Erasutoma Kabushiki Kaisha), 25 February 2000		
	<p>The inventions set forth in claims 1, 4 and 6 to 9 are disclosed in document 1 cited in the international search report; therefore, the inventions in question lack novelty. Document 1 discloses an elastomer composition that can be obtained by melt blending 100 parts by weight of a hydrogenated styrene elastomer and not more than 3000 parts by weight of a rubber softening agent, and presents an example wherein 600 parts by weight of a process oil has been added thereto (example 1). Therein, the aforementioned "hydrogenated styrene elastomer" that is disclosed in document 1 is a hydrogenate of a styrene-butadiene block copolymer (refer to document 1, paragraph [0019]), and thus is a thermoplastic elastomer component that corresponds to the "hydrogenated block polymer of a conjugated diene" which is used in the examples of the present application. Furthermore, document 1 indicates</p>		

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement

that the aforementioned compositions exhibit superior transparency characteristics, resiliency characteristics, rubber elasticity characteristics, weather resistance characteristics, mechanical strength characteristics and workability characteristics, and further indicates that a 2 mm-thick sheet obtained by melting and molding pellets of the aforementioned composition will have a haze value of 20% or less. In addition, the composition of the elastomer in question is not significantly different from the compositions of the invented products that are set forth in the present application; therefore, it is thought that the total light transmittance of the sheet that is disclosed in document 1 will also be approximately the same as the value that is set forth in claim 1 of the present application.

Claims 2, 3 and 10 to 12 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 and document 2 or 3 cited in the international search report. Document 1 discloses examples wherein the elastomer compositions are used in audio/video equipment or other such home electronics equipment and office automation equipment or other such business equipment, etc.; therefore, it would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of using a sheet configured from an elastomer composition which exhibits the transparency characteristics and the rubber elasticity characteristics that are disclosed in document 1 in order to configure a display-protecting sheet like those disclosed in documents 2 and 3.

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